which are undergoing 'C' checks, all the other 16 aircraft in the fleet of Indian Airlines are available for operations. These aircraft are being roated and because of shortage of pilots, any 12 of them are flying on scheduled services every day.

NEWS-ITEM : GOVERNMENT ENDS BAN ON SUMITOMO

980. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Government ends ban on Sumitomo" appearing in the Indian Express dated 12 April, 1991;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) when the ban was removed and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) Orders issued to Public Sector Undertakings under the then Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals in December, 1989, not to give further business to the consortium of Japanese companies which functioned under the name of M|s. Sumitomo Corporation. These orders were withdrawn in May, 1991 after agreements between M|s. Sumitomo Corporation and ONGC|GAIL to refer their contractual dispute to arbitration.

WORKING OF REFINERY PROJECTS

981. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to examine the working of various refinery projects as they are incurring huge deficits; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) The refineries are not incurring huge deficits.

(b) Does not arise.

KANDLA-BHATINDA PIPELINE PROJECT

982. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the present stage of the Kandla-Bhatinda pipeline project;

(b) whether the Government are facing any difficulties in completion|commissioning of the project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the curative steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) The project has been approved by the Government on 29-8-1990. Work relating to acquisition of land, acquisition of right of way for the pipeline, appointment of backup consultants, technical evaluation of offers for composite works contract and yard coating is in progress and global tender for pipeline has been floated.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION

983. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated plans to step up crude oil production;

(b) if so, the details and the targets fixed and the amount to be spent threon;

(c) whether the targets are to be fixed by altering the existing level of production ratio; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?